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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 and 16 through 20 are pending in the application.

Applicants continue to acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication that Claims 1 through 11 and 17 through 20 have been allowed.

Accordingly, Claim 16 has been canceled to advance prosecution of the case and without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications thereon.

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended depend from allowed Claim 1.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

Obviation of Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 through 11 and 16 through 20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in light of the claims of United States Patent No. 6,939,600 ("US 600").

Applicants respectfully submit that the expiration date of the above-referenced Application and US 600 are coterminous, as a terminal disclaimer to the above-referenced Application was submitted during the prosecution of US 600 on November 23, 2004. The Examiner's attention is kindly directed to the PTO Patent Application Information Retrieval System for US 600; File Wrapper History; Mail Room Date 11/26/04 (receipt of Terminal Disclaimer to above-referenced Application No. 09/779,156) and Mail Room Date 11/11/04 (official entry of Terminal Disclaimer on

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11/26/04. Applicants' respectfully submit that an incorrect Mail Room date was entered, and that 11/26/04 was instead intended).

Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection based on the satiation of the public policy associated with the doctrine of double patenting upon entry of the terminal disclaimer in US 600. However, should the Examiner's opinion differ from Applicants' Representative as to the effect of the above-noted terminal disclaimer within US 600, Applicants are prepared to submit a terminal disclaimer to US 600 within the instant case, solely to advance prosecution of the case.

Obviation of Remaining Rejection

Claim 16 stands have been rejected over United States Patent No. 5,660,931 to Kim in view of United States Patent No. 6,641,924 to Peiffer et al.

Claim 16 has been cancelled, without addressing the merits of the rejection and solely to advance prosecution of the case. Applicants further respectfully reiterate that Claim 16 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications thereon.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 11 and Claims 17 through 20 are now in condition for issuance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite issuance of this application.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to facsimile number (571) 273-8300 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 10, 2006.

Claire Wygand
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